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METROPOLITAN MERRIMENT.

The Theatres, Minstrel Halls and Skating Ponds.

The Holiday Season in New York and Brooklyn.

The people of the metropolis still continue to enjoy the holiday season. The celebration of the Christ mas festival is only a single point reached, and its advent and observance relate to one of the most important events of the world's history, necessarily attaching to it a religious aspect. The New Year's oliday, recording an era in time, is made by general consent throughout all civilized countries a festival of enjoyment to a greater or less extent. Nowhere, perhaps, in the world is the event observed so fully as in this metropolis. Relaxation from the more burdensome business of the city is taken, and cleasure and interchange of kindly offices pervade the community. The city at present is full of strangers-representatives of all parts of the Union-who me here at this season of the year to enjoy the carnival season. The city theatres and places of amusement are just now enjoying their pecuniary arvest-managers are happy, the people satisfied. Below will be found the daily record of metropolitan merriment.

Irrespective of choice those who called out a boli. day-and to define the number would be an arithemetical difficulty not easy to be overcome-thronged every public place of amusement that threw open its doors. At both matinees and evening entertainments the attendances were exceedingly numerous. It was plain that at some establishments the visitors were not regular habitués, at least judging from appearance and the delight, as well as bewilderment with which they beheld the several spectacles with which they beheld the several spectacles presented. A prominent feature in nearly all the audiences was the number of contented juveniles, whose persuacions and future promises had induced their roving guardians to bring them before the brilliant foothgats. Besides these were the basinful madens, just spending a week in the city, who sat as if about to get their photographs taken. Managers had good reason to rub their hands with give at the bulging coners of their respective establishments. Nor should they forget their artists, whose labors during the week have been incessant.

Pike's Opera House. The attractions at the matince were "Les Bavards" and "La Chanson de Fortunio," and in the evening "La Grande Duchesse", Mile. Duclos sustaining the principal vole. How many of the audience will crowd the stores of music publishers in quest of crowd the stores of music publishers in quest of the principal gems from the above has not neen estimated, but, judging from the rapture with which the productions were received, it is clear that Offen-bach added many scores of admirers to his long list. The house, brilliantly lighted and well filled in every part by an appreciative and fashionable audience, was a spectacle scarcely to be rivalled. Mile. Duclos' interpretation of the huchess was well received, but the munitable Tostee was unquestion hely missed.

Theatre Français. Curtosity and a determination to see everything in the city worth looking at characterized to some extent the crowd of Christmas visitors to the French theatre yesterday, when the last matince of "Geneviève" was given with even more than usual vigor. It was pain that the unprejudiced and mirth-seeking audience tendered a shent vote of thanks to
manager Grau for presenting the luxuries of offunbach in the best style. The evening performance
was even more crowded, and the handsome theatre
rang with frequent bursts of appliause. To hear
Gabel would have chased away the most obstinate
teothache.

Wallack's Theatre. "The Captain of the Watch" and "Woodcock's Little Game" were regarded with greater interest than any other Christmas game. The performance of those charming comedies has already been favorably alluded to, and it is only necessary to add that boxes, parquet and circle were unanimous in their opinion of their excellence. So long as the repetition of good pieces draws there is nothing to complain of. The manager is, nevertheless, keep-ing his big guns in store to combat the attack upon his eastle by other big guns. The contest will be watched with pieasure by the public.

Broadway Theatre. does Barney Williams smile when throwing out some of the witty shafts in the "Emerald Ring" than a similar movement is visible on nearly every face in the house, and then comes the pent up store of risibility which after dinner, a holiday one especially, is most enjoyable. The theatre was crowded at the matinee. The only complaints made against the "Emeraid Ring" will be by medical gentletiener; but there never was a "ring" of any kind without

Olympic Theatre-"Humpty Dumpty," with all its undefinable accessories, was again viewed at matinee and evening yesterday by eager and delighted audiences. To R member with any degree of distinctness any of the Incomber with any degree of distinction any of the Innomerable features of the production would be a lass of no ordinary proment. But papes and mammas the short jac uple in the world yesterday—at least thought acted, plump and ulcoming little fellows to Doubless, many households will be converted into downight Babels during these Christ erick and downight Babels during these Christ innes, consequent upon the discussion of mas times, consequent upon the discussi "Hompty's" merits by enthusiastic juveniles. Niblo's Garden.

There being no matinge of "After Dark" vesterday, its evening representation was largely attended by an audience anxious, no doubt, to see the mysteries of London life by gaslight. The portraits of human misery and wretchedness, the insight into the terrible resorts of infatuated cilizens, and the scenes, truthful as they undoubtedly are, must have given the audience good subjects for meditation. Wood's Museum.

The last appearance of "Ixion" " es an event of moment at Wood's Museum, for perhaps never was that institution more completely packed. To the that institution more of appletely packed. To the young students of classic authors the occasion must have been finematly interesting and instructive, since they learned more of the detile's dologs than help professors cared to confess. At all events their revers were winescad with gradipleasure. The burlesque "Ernaul" is announced for to-morrow tvening.

The Howery Theatre. Christmas week has been a brisk time at this es-tablishment. With a commendable sagacity the manager perceived that variety was the order of

manager per-greed that variety was the order of the day, and in yiew of which important fact no less than six bloces, with Miss Herring in every one of them, we're performed. The several representations, it is ness the observe, were received with great chibustasta, if not by an assemblage of lords by a consequation of appreciative citizens. The female Detretive" was among the attractions. Park Theatre, Brooklyn.

the fact that Mrs. Conway has lift the popular taste well this season by the timely production of the gorgeous "Aladdin"-the play, not the burlesque. Miss Family Prestigs, a charming young actress, takes the title role, and in the course of it stags some very taking songs. The seenery is very fine, and the manageress has evidently spared neither money nor time in putting this attraction on the stage.

The New Vandeville. Thentre, Brooklyn. Mr. Motton Price, an English comedian of some note, and Miss Catherine Lucette, a charming conmedience, have opened a new Vandeville Theatre over the Post Office, Washington street, Various detects of structure have been gracefully overcome in the arrangement of the room, and the general re sult is a neat and pretty little stage, and a well ar ranged auditorium. The prominent actors are Miss Lucelle, Miss Marton, Mr. Price, Mr. Edmund Philp and Mr. Dorf. The leader of the orchestra is Mr. Sedgwick date of the Park Theatre, who has secured the able and painstaking Mr. Mellatrati as first yields. Andiences have been uniformity good.

The New York Circus. "No standing room" is a somewhat disagreeable antouncement to persons who may have come a long distance to witness a spectacle, yet it stared many late arrivals at the matinee and evening performances of the New York circus. "Bute Beard a Turone Française," with dazzing costumes and the most amusing incident, forms one of the principal attractions at the circus, which is ever a favorite with the young and the remembrancer of happy days to the old.

Tony Pastor's Opera House.

undiminished arder a select audience assen bled at this festive temple to behold with feelings of emotion and otherwise the classical production entitled 'dilekety pickety," with comic tricks, transformations and fairy enanges. That its interpretation afforded delight to the numerous visitors at both day and evening performances was evidenced by the decidedly significant applause which it received.

The Minstrels-Brynuts'. The works of eminent composers, though not pro-

duces with all design de correctness in point of de-

to produce more unrestrained marriment than either Verdi or offenbach ever conceived. "Il Trovatore," as rendered by Bryants' Mustres, is peculiarly rich in point of translation.

Kelly & Leon's. The last night of "Barber Ella" and "Tame Cats" was the occasion of a delighted throng at Kelly & Leon's yesterday evening. The only check to the aninterrupted risibility of the andhence was the ter-mination of the performance. "Gin-revieve de Graw" is the attraction for to-morrow night. The San Francisces.

"Rone Squash Diable" was the magnet that filled this favorite establishment last evening, not to speak of the numerous songs, dances and other entertainments. The composition acted powerfully on the minds of the audience, as dat also the ingenious hits of the quartet, Birch, Wambold, Bernard and Backus.

The Hibernian Minstrels.

Apollo Hall was comfortably filled last evening The entertainment, being truly of an entirely liber man character, elicited the hearty approbation of a

Hooley's Opera House. Hooley has had a brilliant week, brilliant audiences, and it is acknowledged by everybody who has visited his opera house in Court street, Brooklyn, that he has a brilliant company. Yesterday afterthat he has a britiant company. Yesterday after-noon he had a matinée, which was well attended by little people and their parents, who were greatly amused by the humorous sayings and acts of Joe Emmett, John Mulitgan, Bily Sheppard, Dave Reed and others of the troupe. The appearance of Santa Claus with his well-filled pack proved the acme of their innocent enjoyment. In the evening the house was crowded to excess, many being unable to ob-tain admission, and rounds of apphause, with repeatin admission, and rounds of appliause, with repeat-

Brooklyn Athenseum. The merry old wizard, Signor Bitz, who seems to have discovered the secret of perpetual youth, was Sama Claus' representative at this house. Things appeared and disappeared in the most unaccountable mulner, the laws of nature were set aside and the children looked on in assonishment. The Athenaeum was well filled by a bewildered and amused profic.

Central Park Garden. The attractions at this resort being of a varied and interesting character, the visitors yesterday were numerous and the saie of Christmas presents pretty brisk.

Amateur Theatricals Among the Germans. The Society Urania, established for the cultivation of vocal music and dramatic art, had a very agreeable entertainment at the National Assembly Rooms, on West Forty-fourth street, on Christmas Day. They brought upon the stage the comedy of "The Enchanted Prince," and, for amateurs, the piece was well enacted throughout. Another German society, organized with a similar purpose, performed at their hall, on West Forty-second street, the "Long Israel," a four act comedy by Benedix, on Friday night, and last evening the "Wirrwarr" of Kotzebue, and in each piece the performers, considering their being strangers to the stage, did well. Curling at the Park.

Few games possess so little attraction for the spectator as that of curling. The players themselves appear to act in so staid a manner as forcibly to remind one of the interesting game of ninepins that was unceremoniously intruded upon by the luckless Rip Van Winkle. Curling is the national winter game of Scotland, and is certainly particularly adapted for the season. The Scotch are fond of hardy, athletic sports, and among their native hills, when bleak winter sets in, they join in clubs to enjoy themselves at their favorite amusement. Though themselves at their tavorite amusement. Though deficient in the excitement or health giving infiguences of skating, it is a good quiet game and seems to give intense satisfaction to the players. The spectators, if any have the bardihood to remain long, are sure to become so cold that they lose all interest in it and feel proportionately disappointed. With skating it is different. No matter though the thermometer stood below zero and the sharp piereng blast of winter swept with congealing powers, still you could soon get up a hot glow and make the torpid blood tingle through your very veins by mixing with the gay, laughing throngs that glide so gracefully over the different rinks. There is health and hie and enjoyment in skating, while the game of enring is a cold matter of fact sort of pastime. It is true that at times a hearty laugh is got up at the expense of some player who, while ruising after the curling stone to sweep away the ice to make it go the easier, sips and falls to the intense amusement of his comrades.

The members of the St. Andrew's Curling Club had a stirring game yesterday on their ground in the Park for the silver medal, which is awarded to the most distinguished player of the club for one year. This medal has been held in succession, since lace, by the following members:—Messrs, Robert Gordon, William Brand, Robert Nicnol, John C. Long, William Hogg, John Bracen and Alex, barrymple. As the game is chiefly confined to the Scotch we give a short account of the manner of piaying it, for the information of such as might wish to be initiated.

How the Game is PLAYED.

The curling stones weigh from thirty to fifty deficient in the excitement or health giving infig-

Scotch we give a short account of the manner of playing it, for the information of such as might wish to be initiated.

How the game is played.

The curling stones weigh from thirty to fifty pounds, suited to the strength of the player; each of these has a handle by which it can be skated along the ice. The rinks, at which the players stand, are about forty-two yards apart. At the end of each rink a circle is drawn on the ice; the centre of this circle is called "the tee," on which is placed a curling stone. The points of the game are to strike the stone on the tee out of the circle. The next point is to place one stone on the circle, another two feet from it the manner to strike the latter. The next is called drawing, which consists of specifig the stone so as to longe it within the circle. The next point consists of longing the stone played within the central line. "this-active means to atrike the stone out of the circle, the one played taking its place. The next point is to strike a stone played eaven the form the tee, the stone hitting it to rest in the circle. Raising is when a stone is placed on the line of the circle and struck into the circle by the player. Capping the winner is when a stone is placed on the tee, another ten feet distant as a guard, the player passing the guard and striking the other.

The result.

grand, the player passing the guard and striking the other.

The result.

To a spectator the game looks perfectly simple; but on inspection he would find that it is rather difficult to make the various points. For instance, in passing the guard it is necessary to give your curling stone a kind of whirl; for had it gone in a straight line it would strike against the guard. The game, too, is very slow; for each player has to throw twice, and where there were seventeen players the game occupied a considerable time. Mr. Brand, of the Columbian Club, and Mr. Drones, of the New York Club, acted as umpires.

The result of the game was received with considerable enhusiasm. Mr. tundop having made ten plottes, the figures to the list, was declared the will-ner of the medal. The next nighest was points being the highest score of the other members, the average score was five points to each member, which is considered pretty good playing. Mr. Damop received the medal from the hands of the club soon after separated for their homes, evidently well pleased with their day's anusement.

The Caledonian and Thistle Clubs.

The Caledonian and Thistle Cinbs. On another part of the pond a match came off be twoen a rink of the Caledonians against a rink of the Thistles. The game was well coatested, and stool—the caledonians thirteen points to the others eleven. W. Symmers and Robert Russell acted as skipps to the game. Besides the above, several parties got up sernh matches, which seemed to be contested with as much zeal an eagerness as the one for the

The lake on the Park was extensively patronized yesterday. The ice was in excellent condition, and the lovers of the art enjoyed themselves to the fulless extent. Not the least interesting feature of the scene was the numerous gathering of children, who, now that the schools are closed during the holiday season, devote a goodly portion of their time to the enjoyment of exhibitanting skating exercise. Many of these compsters are experts in the art, and their graceful evolutions and execution of fancy figures, while it afforded them gratification, contributed to the amusement of thousands of spectators who were present yesterday on the borders of the lake.

The Union Skating Pond.

The Union Skating Pond. The above favorite Brooklyn resort of shaters was

never more popular than at present. Yesterday it and boys, accompanied by their parents or guardians—all on skates—took possession of the guardians—all on skates—took possession of the tee, and, urged on by cheerful music and a bracing stmosphere, they entered fully into the healthful spots. The ice was never in a better condition, and it is difficult to determine who experiences the greatest amount of pleasure, the great public in enjoying it or the proprietor of the pond in affording the enjoyment. What one party gains in vigor the other gains in material prosperity.

Skating at Prospect Park.

Bet for the Park. This is and headers.

He' for the Park. This is and has been the cry of the lovers of the steel shod sport residents of Brooklyn city and vicinity for the past two or three days, and parkward certainly has been their course. The old and dilapidated Flatbush vehicles run at extended intervals by the Brooklyn Railroad Company along Fulton street and Flatbush avenue, under the pretence of "public accommodation," have been tence of "public accommodation," have been sorely tried to bear the crowds which have sought pussage either for shelter or convenience on them. The Smith street cars, too have been more than well patronized by men, women, boys and girls, bound out in quest of the sport which Prospect Park offers for the lovers of this popular and corridorcasing winter passing—skating. It is to be regretted, it is here well to mention, that there are so few and inform cuty railreadings leading to the new park. The evit will this promised, be remeibed, as even as the Legislature can effect certain writtle jobs," having in view to object of meeting this public wast in shorting

additional lines to the Park. But the major portion of the skaters are standy, jolly major portion of the skaters are sturdy, jobles, both young and old, who love court the invigorating and oracing brease present he Park and keeping along the main stance of half a mile or so, jostling si for a distance of half a mile or so, jostling side by side with rosy-faced folks, with states stung across their shoulders and well multied forms, one strikes off to the left at an angle of the road near Franklin avenue and comes in sight of the carnival scene on loc. Here is found an animating view indeed. A street of icy surface, covering nearly fifteen acres of the lake, spanned by a ruistic bridge, approached by gently stopling banks, bordered by a well arranged platform and peopled by a swildly-gliding, ever-changing mass of skaters, forms a most effective picture, and one which can only be witnessed at the people's Park, where they enjoy, free of all expense, the pleasures which nature and artifice have generously provided for them. The lee here yesterdry was in excellent condition, notwithstanding the great wear which it has been subjected to in the constant use made of it. There could not, it is estimated, have been less than ten thousand persons there at different times yesterday. The police of the park strutted around with an air of dignity worthy of a true Metropolitan, and flourished their batons, and desported their unipornas in the fulness of their self-imagined importance, which latter is mainly superinduced by the inereased patronage bestowed upon their domain. The refreshment stand, where everything was to be iound that could be calculated to tempt the "spare change" of the patrons of the skating pond, were well patronized. This pond is now an institution of the people and is one which has, doubtless, quite materially affected the receipts and profits of neighboring ponds.

De Garmo's Hall.

This elegant hall, at the corner of Fourteenth street.

De Garmo's Hall. This elegant hall, at the corner of Fourteenth street and Fifth avenue, was well filled last evening by a fashionable and critical audience—such an audience as the announcement of "Dramatic and Poetic Reci tations" by Miss Nina Foster never fails to attract The programme on this occasion consisted of two scenes from the "School for Scandal" (Lady Teazle being one of the favorite characters of this young and gifted artist); the "Woollen Doll," a new poem by Geerge W. Hows-a poem full of pathos and re cited with exquisite plaintiveness; the hunting scene from "London Assurance," with all its spirit and life: Margery Grey, which afforded another opportunity "to ope the secret source of sympathetic tears;" and, finally, the familiar scene between Julia and Master Waiter in the "flunchback." The voice of Miss Nina Foster, if not very strong, is, nevertheless, powerful to awaken either tears or laughter, belicously clear and vibrating, it is so well modulated and she counciates so distinctly that it produces greater effects than many a stronger voice. Her countenance beams with expression and her attitudes and gestures are equally vivacious and graceful. Her acting has the best qualities of the French school, and she has reached that art of concealing art which could alone secure her rare, distinguishing charm of "naturalness." scene from "London Assurance," with all its spirit

Balls to Take Place. The following named balls are announced to tak place:-

Dec. 28-First Regiment Hawkins Zouaves-Apolio Dec. 29—Hoboken Turtle Club—Apollo Hall. Dec. 30—Fancy Dress and Mask Soirce—Rivers

Dec. 30—Fancy Dress and Mask Soirce—Rivers' Academy.

Dec. 30—John Morrissy Coterie—Apoilo Hall.

Jan. 5—Ninth Infantry National Guard Ball—Academy of Music.

Jan. 6—Private Coachman's Society—Irving Hall.

Jan. 11—Dramatic Fund Ball—Academy of Music.

Jan. 13—La Coterie Fancy Dress Ball—Academy of Music. Jan. 18-Odd Fellows' Ball-Brooklyn Academy of Music.

MR. AND MRS. COLFAX.

21-"Ours," Sociable-Rivers' Academy

Their Reception in Springfield, Mass .- Speech of the Vice President Elect.

(From the Springfield Republican, Dec. 28.)

The reception of vice President elect Schuyer Colmx at the rooms of the Springfield club in Shaw's block, last evening, was in every way satisfactory. Before the announced hour of eight o'clock the parlors were occupied by the gentlemen of the club, and many of the best men and fairest women of this city, rich as it is in those respects. And a large but most civil crowd had gathered around the rooms when, shortly after eight, Mr. Colfax, with his wife on his arm, entered under the guidance of his host, since Christians eve, Mr. Samuel Bowles. Soon, on taking their station in the long sade, began the long martyrdom of handshaking. Mr. Colfax is surely the most popular of our public men, and justly so, for the people know him as that rare character, one over whom political life has cast no shadow of dishonor. Last night be stood there, grasped the hands of Solfie 5,020 Feople, with always a gental and natural saille, and often a quick pleasantry, and despite the wearisome ordea! he looked on the countenance of the lady at his side. Mrs. Colfax has a face of into intellectual beauty and a diguided and affable grace, as winning as her husband's, and as ready for the friendity tonen of cach hand. For six paid the hall penalty of wedding a servant of the people, and all there had a smile and a bow from both. It will please the women folk to know that the neckince of pearls she wore was her husband's wedding gift, and her dark hair was adorned with a coronal of pure white blossoms. Meantime as the long array, only to be counted by thousands, deflied in and gift again, the armorers, with lager good byind, tendered. In count of counted by thousands, deflied in the street below, and after some appropriately selected music they too, joined the crush above. At about nine o'clock President H. S. Hyde, of the citaly capital and the rich was a decreased the cush who have done for the minutes I have spent in this club room this evening. I have to thank the club who have done for the

heart is happy to-night; General Grant is happy; I am negry;
This little speech was Palerspersed with occasional cheers and languier at its good points, some of which were emphasized by the presence of the speaker's wife. Then the hand shaking recommenced, and continued for some two hours more, during a part of which time the Armory band discoursed more sweet music in one of the pariors. The Springfield dub conducted the ceremones and graduated the crush of people in a most courteous and capable tanner. Mr. Collax and his wife leave the city this morning for troy, there to become the guests of John A. Griswold for the remainder of the holidays; and they take with them the hearty good will of Springfield.

AMERICANS ABROAD.

List of names of Americans now in Berlin, as copied from the register at the Embassy:—J. A. 1011, Boston; J. C. Gibson and wife, Springfield, Ill.; Tracy Peck and Miles Peck, Bristol, Count.; E. Jai-Boston; J. C. Obson and wife, Springleid, Ill.;
Tracy Peck, and Mieles Peck, Bristol, Conn.; E. Jacobs and W. B. Jacobs, Shreveport, La.; G. Anderson, Boston; G. and E. Shulenburg, and L. L. Junghaus, M. D., St. Louis; Edwin Branard, Chicago; John G. Davis, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Norman Smith, New York; Henry H. Wolf, Louisville, Ky.; H. B. Hanna and H. D. Spears, Lufayette, Ind.; E. R. Olcott, New York city; Thomas H. Hartwel, Detroit, Mich.; Carles White, New York; H. S. A.; Henry Walson, Pittsburg, Pa.; Shas G. Pratt, Chicago, Ill.; C. Oaborne Ward, New York city; Algernon Skiney Biddle, Philadelphia; Rev. Seian Merrill, New York; Jeremah W. Winkler, Boston; Sam? S. Hartiev, Albant, N. Y.; Theodore Kauffman, New York; C. H. T. Schuttz, Cinciannat; William C. Walker, Utca, N. Y.; Robert Harbison, Hartford, Conn.; Albert R. Leeds, Philadelphia; G. W. Cutter, Cambridge, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Ricuard, New York; A. H. Hall, Doston, E. P. McLean, New Hartford, N. Y.; G. P. Engelman, St. Louis, Mo.; C. Fenant Lee, Boston; Franklin Taylor, Philadelphia; E. K. Hebsehet, New York city; H. B. Tompkins, Rhode Island; Lion Level, San Francisco, Cal.; Thomas E. Simmons, Baltimore; Rev. A. H. Wyatt and Irdy, New York; Lucius N. Tuttle, Lebanon, Olino; Charles E. Beckmere, Ernadford, Me.; Charles Gordon, Cleveland, Olino; S. Spiro, Nashville, H., and Mrs. A. G. Petrioona, E. S. A., New York; Henry Harrlson, Viegium; H. C. Walter, Utca: Henry Platter, Cuicago; Mes. C. D. Ghiespie, Philadelphia; Gegood Wefsh, Philadelphia; A. G. Petrioona, E. S. A., New York; Henry Harrlson, Viegium; H. C. Walter, Utca: Henry Pageod Wefsh, Philadelphia; A. G. Berthoone, E. S. A., New York; Henry Harrlson, Viegium; H. C. Walter, Plata, Henry Pageod Wefsh, Philadelphia; A. G. Berthoone, E. S. A., New York; Henry Harrlson, Viegium; H. C. Walter, Plata, Henry Pageod Wefsh, Philadelphia; Alegand Wefsh

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

OUR SEEP AND MUTTON—HOW TO MAKE THEM CHEAP AND WHOLESOME. By William Reid. Edinburg. Andrew Eliot.
THE SORY OF THE TRUCK, OR THE WHY AND WHERE-FORE BY CATTLE DISEASES. By William Reid. Edinburg. Andrew Elliot.

The uties of these two books explain their con tents. The subjects are treated in an able manner and should be read by all who have charge of cattle or are in any manner interested in having whole some beef and mutton.

Magazine Notices. THE CAPUSLIC WORLD. January, 1869. New York: Catholic Publication House.

The present number of tids magazine is unusually interesting An article on Galileo, another entitled "Protestanism a Failure" (a review of Dr. Ewer's Sermons), and a third on "Catholicity and Pantheism" are the best papers given. The second, par ticularly, is harp, pungent and argumentative. As a matter of course, the magazine being essentially Catholic in its view, everything that bears upon religion takes the Roman Catholic side of the various issues discussed, but even Protestants can read the second artise referred to and be interested and instructed, if lot convinced. It is, as is the entire magazine, it fact, written in a very broad and liberal spirit.

THE OLD GUARD. JANUARY, 1869. New York: Van Evrie, Horon & Co., Publishers. To those presons who yet adhere to the political

theory of "State rights" the Old Guard will be always welcome. The political articles in the number before in arc well and forcibly written, but we cannot say the same for the literary papers. ONWARD. For the Youth of America. Conducted by Caplain Mayon Rend. January. Caricton, Pub-lisher, New York.

It would beunfair, in a measure, to pass judgment on the first number of a magazine, but candor com-pels us to saythat Onward falls far below what it night and shald have been. There is a fine opening might and shalld have been. There is a fine opening for another nonthly, but the one before us can scarcely fill it. Captain Reid promised too much in advance. Homagazine was to be a "teacher;" but what the Jamary number is designed to teach we cannot, for the life of us, imagine. It may be that a constitutional borror of short paragraphs, of sensational situations, and a distaste for too many italies have combined to render our impressions unfavorable. However this criticism is kindly meant, if the next number slows any improvement we shall give it praise with leasure.

Happen's New Mostrilly Magazine, January, 1869.

HARPER'S NEV MONTHLY MAGAZINE. January, 1869. Harper & Bathers, New York.

It is, of course, almost unnecessary to say anything about this magizine, so well known and popular is it. The number before us contains articles to suit all classes and readers. "The Buffalo Range," an illustrated paper, by Theodore R. Davis, is very interesting, but, like all of Mr. Davis' productions carelessly writen. Why cannot the author revise lu's "Wild Life Under the Equator" (illustrated) is well written, the extracts from the work are interesting and the wood cuts faithful. "South Coast Saunterings in England" belongs to a higher order of literature than is usually found in magazines. It is not only excelently written, but it is as certain to instruct as it will be to entertain. "Chivalrous and Semi-Chivalrous Southrous" will amuse every person who reads the article, but it is not an impartial picture of Southern society or mainers. It exaggerates in some cases and undervalues in others, the other articles, including light hierature, are good, and will do much to maintain the reputation of the magazine.

The New Ellectic Magazine, January 1869. Parents well written, the extracts from the work are inter-

THE NEW ECLECTIC MAGAZINE. January, 1869. Bal-

This magazine is more descrying of the name than many of its more pretentions contemporaries. The selections are excellent and its reviews and editorials well written. THE ART JOURNAL, December, 1868. New York: Virtue & Yorston.

This number is full of engravings and articles relating to the arts. It is quite readable.

Almonnes for 1869. An unusually large number of almanaes for the ensuing year have already made their appearance, and many of them bear evidence of improvement in typography, selection of matter, engraving, and, in some instances, even in illumination. The annua advent of these unpretending but interesting books of reference and consultation is looked forward to with evident pleasure by scores of scientific men, business men, havigators, housekeepers, farmers and thousands of Meers, who would undoubtedly experience much inconvenience were they, by some necessary information, which is to be found no where else but in these useful little calendars. In view of the vast importance of these instructive works to so many thousands of our citizens we ap nend a notice of such of them as have been issued from the press for the year 1869.

THE ATLANTIC ALMANAC FOR 1869, published by Ticknor & Fields, is gotten up in magnificent style, and is even more instructive and cutertaining than its equaterpart, the Atlantic Monthly. Besides its prose, poetry and astronomical and general information it contains four colored illustrations of the seasons and twelve fine art engravings, representing the different months of the year.

constant twelve fine and engravings, representing the different months of the year.

Frank Leslie's ILLUSTRATED ALMANAC, as its name implies, is filled with engravings, many of which are really inferitorious, especially the colored ones. In addition to its selected reading matter this almanae contains a useful chronological table, besides the usual calendars for the various months.

APPLICAN'S BLUSTRATED ALMANAC is printed upon toned paper and contains to the various months as serior tout instructive bistory of each month, besides much useful information concerning the sun, moon, planets, comics and the weather.

The OLD Franklin Almanac for 1869, published by A. Which, Paladelphia, is as entertaining and instructive as heretofore. It contains a record of American events for the years too and 1868; natrine losses in the United States, losse by fire and radicolar necrology for 1861 and 1868; natrine losses in the United States, losse by fire and radicolar disasters during the years 1867 and 1868, besides a 184 of the cinef officers of the United States government from 1774 to 1872.

The ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL OF PHERNOLDIN AND Physiological team many hereal lessons.

The Carticlar Faylia Almanac contains much which is useful to the ecclesinates and lafty of the Church. Its calendars are of a reingous order and embrace the names of the saints, together with the leasts and fixts of the Church and other information valuable to Catholics.

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The Carticlar Faylia Almanac contains a short sector of the Church and other information valuable to Catholics.

THE CHURCH ALMA AC CONTAINS A Short sketch of the Protestant Episcopai Church in America, to gether with the diocesan institution and a complete list of the clergy of the American Church, with their

his of the elergy of the American church, with their mannes mat places of residence.

The PAMILY CHRISTIAN ALANAC makes a specialty of the conjunction of the planets, eclipses and other terrestrial phenomena. Its calendars are arranged for hearty every state in the Union.

THE CULTIVATOR ALMANA:—This work is replete with useful information concerning rural affairs, and will doubtless prove a valuance aid to larmers, for every the appropriate and the larmers, tor every the appropriate and the property of t

will doubtless prove a variance and to farmers, for whom it is principally intensed into book, besides the mislomary calendar of the months, contains a number of short excitences and pariakes of the nature of a diary, in which entires can be made every day in the year.

The NATIONAL TEMPERANCE ALMANAC is gotten up in the interest of temperance generally, and gives some curious statistics of intemperance and contains some strong arguments in favor of total abstinence.

Brows's ALMANAC.—This little work is intended for the vienity of Boston and has no distinguishing feature except a be that it is helf almanac and built OCKET disty. CHARRETTO ALMANAC, as the name im-

CLAIRE'S VICEBRIDG ALMANAC, as the name impacts, is intended for use in Victaborg only. It contains a list of State and Territorial governments, but in other respects as an inferior work.

HOUSEREPTER'S AIMANAC AND PARMERS' AND MELLANICS' ABMANAC are published by King and Baird, Philadelphia, and are both very instructive and useful books. The former is filled with recipes for cooking, and the latter with information for the latter and mechanic.

and useful books. The former is filled with recipes for cooking, and the latter with information for the farmer and incthanic.

THE KNICKERDOCKER, THE FAMILY AND THE FARSERS ALMANACS are the titles of three hitle books published on poor paper by the American News Company. With the exception of the name all three are also me every particular, and each of them contains he same reading matter.

THE TEXAS ALMANAC publication, issued by W. & D. Richardson & Co., of Galveston, Texas, has made his twofilm annual visitation. The present eathor contains as spages of carefully compiled matter, exhibiting the agricultural, manufacturing, rairoad and chief material interests of the great and growing Hafe of Texas. An accurate map of the State also accompanies the work, which is for said at 12 Parchy situed. Price \$1.

FREDERICK STRARD'S LLLUSTRIFFER FAMILIEN KALENDER.—This work is well compiled, and will be found very acceptance to family circles both for the recreative and pseud mormation it contains.

FREDERICK GERLAIN'S DIATEM-AMERICANISCHER ARBUSTER KALENDER CONTAINS ALTERICANISCHER KARENDER CONTAINS A quantity of assist knowledge when renders it welcome to all, but expectally to the laboring classes, on account of its practical information.

S. Tickel's Lalestmirera Taschernkalender is an elegant little volutice, and the well-executed steel plate engravings, combined with the pleasing matratives and compositions. It is admirably for young people.

OPER RECEPT CALENDER BEST THE STAAT UND LAND Fig. 1 Dec Riccipt Country, by Ring & Baird, Polladetphia, color, are useful and ingrecence companions, especially for same 1 persons diving in the country, to whom the recepts

and other information cannot fail to be of considerable importance generally.

L'ALMANACH FOUR GURE, illustrated by Cam. is a work already well known for its lunoristic sketches and aliasions, and in the treatment of current topics the carical ures of the present edition fully keep up its well general registrops.

the caricalores of the present edition fully keep up its well earned reputation.

L'ALMANGE DE LA VIE PARISTENNE contains some well executed burlesques on the present fashions arts and the Paristan theatrical circles. The resume of the popular plays is racy and highly interesting.

L'ALMANGE PES COCOTES has many contestings bearing on Paristan life, especially the monthly predictions, which, although rather broad to the radictions, which, although rather broad to the radictions of Gothamnes, are acceptable in the general ran of the present French light literature.

LA MERE CHOONE, ALMANACH DES PETTE PARAYES, is a well composed and instructive as well as an amusing book for children, to whom we can recommend it as a welcome holiday present.

MUSICAL REVIEW.

Louis Dachauer & Co. publish the following:-Gems from "La Périchole," "Fleur de The" and "L'Œil Creve," including the favorite letter song and "Ah! que les Hommes," from the first opera; "En tous Pays" and the vivandière's song from the second and a brilliant, sparkling galop from the last.
"Io Vivo, et' amo," duet. Campana. One of this favorite and excellent composer's best pieces. The vocal parts of all his works are written in the dialogue or dramatic form and are always pleasing. Ditson & Co. publish the following:—
Waitz, Duet and "C'est l'Espague," from "Les

Waitz, Duet and "C'est l'Espagne," from "Les Bavards." Of all Offenbach's operas there is none to compare with this on the score of music, and those three pieces are the best selections from it. There is a misprint or paipable mistake in the chorus of the song and the latter part of the waitz. We refer to the last measure of the second phrase, where the seventh is given instead of the key note. "Gentle Lillian Gray," ballad. Frank Mori. Don't timk much of it. It is nothing better or worse than what is published by the score every day. "Treasures of the Heart," ballad. J. S. Cox. A spirited baritone song. "Laus Deo," song. F. Booth. One of Young Men's Christian Association or Sunday school order of duties.

Christian Association or Sunday school order of dities.

"I Will not Kiss the Sweetest Lip," song. G. A. Veazie, Jr. A so-so kind of song, not entitling the composer to the consideration of any lip, "Angel Minnle," song. G. F. Sargent but not striking in any sense of the word. "I Never can Forest Water, bullad. C. E. Pratt. Coost, with a peculiar accompaniment.

"No Thoroughiare Gatop." Coote. A dushing saion galop. The melody has been evidently written for the cornet a piston.

"Tomahawk Galop," Of the same kind as the preceding.

"Tomahawk Galop." Of the same kind as the preceding.

"Galop Militaire." E. Hoffman. A very brilliant and effective concert piece, and one which will compare with the best of this plannist's compositions.

"La Facinque," waltz. A. J. Goodricu. Played by Blind Tom. An ambitious piece as far as intention goes, but one that tails in many respects.

Frederick Blume publishes the following:

"Kitty McGee." H. Tucker. Good of its kind, but devoid of originality.

"Barbe Bleue Galop," arranged by F. Lüdke. One of the best galops we have seen in opera boughe.

"Barbe Bleue" potpourri. Ludke. Very poorly arranged.

"Baroe Bree Forman arranged.

Root & Cady, Chicago, publish a piece called "Grant's Waltz." by Hattle Nunn, which is, honestly speaking, the most worthless composition we have ever seen or heard during the whole course of our

Ives.
W. A. Pond & Co. publish the following:
"Hidden Love," ballad. H. B. Farnie. This is the
"Chanson de Fortunio," note for note. Offenbach
picked it up among a lot of old French airs. It is

charming.

"Heavenly Voices," A. B. Neldy. Very pleasing,

"Heavenly Voices," A. B. Neldy. Very pleasing,

with arpegari interwoven in the melody; the recitative in the introduction are also good.

"Reminiscences of Geneviève de Brabant." A. W.

Berg. Easy and well arranged. The hunting quarter night be more effective.

"Te Deum." Lambillotte. There are few modern
composers who write such spirited and effective
music for the Church as Lambillotte. This is up to is usual standard.
S. I. Gordon publishes a book of organ voluntaries which contains selections from the works of all the great masters. It is an excellent work for any or

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES.

Tommy Dodd wants a new umbrella.

"The Arrow Through the Eye" is to be the Engish title of the new opera at the Français. There is a capital drunken scene in "La Peri-

Howard Glover is already preparing for Lydia Thompson's reception at Niblo's in February,
Moss is delighted at the prospect of "Money" at

Wallack's on Monday.

The million curiosities at Wood's are on the quit cire to know who Ernani is.

The fat woman says he's a "dilemma."
Old Tom, in "After Dark," wants to be reconstructed.

Old Tom, in "After Dark," wants to be reconstructed.

A broad gauge in the railroad scene is talked of for the convenience of freight.

Sam Colville says he has caught an inexplicable sea monsier. What is 1?

The Mendelssolm Union will give a concert at Irving Hall this evening. Harvey Dodworth and Mullenhauer are the conductors.

B. F. Lowell has engaged Maggie Mitchell to appear at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Tuesday evening, when will be performed the domestic drama, "Little Barcfoot."

Mr. Hackett, after a lapse of several years, is to commence all engagement at the Boston theatre to-

commence an engagement at the Boston theatre tomorrow.

Thomas' usual Sunday concert will be given this
evening at Steinway flail.

Farepa and her entire troupe will appear at Steinway had on the 8th of January. M. oe Vivo, her
agent, has returned to this city from Chilorenta by
the overland route. The success of the troupe was
everywhere very great,
Some outrageous individual perpetrated the following theatrical conundrum:—If the "Ticket-oiLeave Man" should meet the "Lancashire Lass,"
wearing the "Emerald Ring," in the "Streets of New
York," "Ender the Gaslight," where there was "No
Thorougentare," what would the consequence bey
Answer—"Foul Flay."

Patti, who has been suffering from cold and oarseness, is better.

M. Barrez, long time ballet master at the Paris Opera, has just died at the age of seventy-five. Mile. Nilsson has renewed her engagement at the Paris Opera for one year, beginning June next. Gouned, who is in til health, has gone to Rome

where he will complete his opera, "Francesco di Rimini."
Veril is writing an opera on the subject of "Remoe and Junet" for St. Peteraturg, to be produced in the season 1802-70, with Magame Advina Parti as the herome.

Ferdinand Ludwig, the celebrated plantst and composer of Wiesbaden, has gone to reside in London.

A runor was afloat that there were no more funds for the continuation of the work of rebuilding Her-

A rumor was afroat that there were no more funds for the continuation of the work of rebuilding lier Majesty's theatre, London. It appears, however, that a considerable amount of work has been done, considering the limited time which has elapsed since its commencement.

The opera "phigenic en Tauride," esteemed by fluck, it is said, as his masterpiece, has been revived at the Theatre Lyrique. It was originally produced in 1739, and desticated to Marie Antoinette.

A special performance of "Guntaume Tell" was given on the 28th ut., at the Paris Opéra, in honor of Rossim, between the third and fourth acts the curtain was lifted, revening a bust of the composer, placet on a pelectal granulented with flowers and laurels.

MEXICO.

Condition of Affairs in Nuevo Lega-Increasing Poverty of the Country.

CADEREYTA, NGEVO LEON, Dec. 1, 1808, The weekly issues of the HREALD of the 20th and lst of October and 7th of November have just come to hand. Our mails are exceedingly (rregular, owing to the excessive rains and floods. It has raised here nearly every day for the last month.

A raid from the other side of the Rio Grande threw

he frontier towns into a panic about two weeks since, and our Governor, General Treviño, nipped the matter in the bud by pursuing and capturing the invaders, some twenty-five or thirty mounted men, armed to the teeth, supposed to be in the service of at need to the teeth, supposed to be in the service of Quiroga, and sent over to feel the pulse of these communities. This settles the matter that these frontier towns do not wish a revolution. There is such an impoverished state of the people in all these parts, owing to the bad seasons, bad crops, revolutions, forced leans and epidemics, that no one seems to have any spirit or energy left. Everybody is in a state of collapse. There is no money in circulation, no business doing, nobody pays debts, many are bankrupt and liquidating, and everybody is in bad humor, of course. And this is the condition of the whole republic. It may not be quite as bad in the interior, but the collapse is general, and growing worse and worse.

OUR NAVAL FORCE IN THE WEST INDIES.

The Work for the Navy in the American Mediterranean-Ships and Gons Affont-False Economy and its Injury to Commerces

The disturbed condition of affairs in this is and, as elsewhere in the West Indies and localities adjacent, renders it important that the American naval force in this vicinity should be of the character and strength sufficient to protect American interests and enable the United States to exercise that moral instance ence which is her due. That it is not --

can be seen at a glance.

As stated in the late report of the Secretary of the ways, the North Atlantic squadron, under the compmand of Rear Admiral Henry K. Hoff, is composed of the Contoocook (dagship), thirteen guns; Saco, enguns; Penobscot, nine guns; Yantic, five guns; Gettysburg, nine guns, and Nipsic, six guns. Of these the Saco, being in need of extensive repairs, has been withdrawn from the squadron and ordered home. In accordance with orders from the Navy Department one vessel remains at Aspin wall constantly, being relieved at certain periods in order that officers and crew may recover from the deleterious effects of the climate, leaving but four vessets to represent the dignity of the American nation, to protect its commerce and its citizens from Nova protect its commerce and its citizens from Nova Scotia to Lagragyra, including the Gulf of Mexico, the West Indies and the northern part of South America. In times of peace this might be simply sufficient, but, as is well known, in the latter two localities mentioned revolutions have reached a chronic state, and in view of the dew complications certain to arise from the extensive insurrection in this island, not at all unlikely to be seconder in Porto Rico at an early date, is ridiculously integual to the task required of it. From flagti, St. Domingo, Venezuea, and from various ports in this island, American representatives are cailing loadly for war vessels for the protection of property and person, and while in some instances such calls may be prompted by other reasons than the necessaries of the case, it is unicobled that the presence of such vessels is often required, and the force at his disposal should be sumereaffy large to enable the admiral to comply with such just requirements.

At present the Contopocok is in this narbor and has been for some weeks best. For her to leave would be imprudent, in view of difficulties likely to arise, though the present condition of anams renders it desirable that a vessel should be rent to both Nuevitas and santlago de Cuba.

The injury done to American interests, both at home and alroad, by the lasse contonity exercised by the government of the United States in the retuction of its navy cannot be properly understoot. From the earliest dates history shows that the commerce of a nation and its consequent weath and greatness have always been commensurate with the earliest dates of south American change their natural character after a few years or become instead into English the force and protected. It is almost all variously the case that successful American mascanthe houses established and protected. It is almost all the united states transfer their natural character after a few years or become therefore into the after a few years or become the post on the earlier and th Scotia to Laguayra, including the Gulf of Mexico,

the effect of sinking that country in its commercial relations into an abyss of contempt from watch all of Admira ut's visits to an the ports of La

ICE BOATING ON THE MEDSON.

Opening of the Scuson-Splendid Condition of the Ice-The Coming Race of the Poughkeepsic leebont Association-Scenes Peughkeepsie en Saturday.

POCCHERENIE. Dec. 76, 1868. The novel and eximiarating sport connected with ce teating on the Hudson river assumed form and shape here to-day. For three winters past there has been no such surface of ice on the Hedson as is vistble off here now. From shore to shore and away to the southy ard for a distance of ten miles, with the exception of a supurity rough surface off Misson, the bosom of the Hadson is covered with a smooth, by mirror that is fast driving metabers of the Poughkeepsie icabout Association into delicious of joy. keepsie in most Association into delivering of 10%. On the west shore the towering fails are respected by size fee below, which has respected by size fee below, which has respected as they said. As I write the facility are they reflected as filey said. As I write the facility are they reflected as filey said. As I write the facility, and the association, duris by the per unker full failt, with diags dying from gan, bean and runner board, and, though there is only a fig. and it winter board, and, though there is only a fig. and it winter board, and, though there is only a fig. and it winter board, and, though there is only a fig. and what to the northwant, she is making east failty miles the hour. Couling from an opposite direction, humaning side a bee, is commodore boards boar, the Reseless, with the startly commedone is due helm. Like a bird on the way, she almost thes post the Show Spauli, the Figing Datchaum. Viola Newsboy and Con, which vessels are quiet; tying in a group, hos down, waiting for their sailing basices, who are not far away, discussing life popurately of a remandissance to the south in search of a suitable track for the grant race for the silver plate of the association. All attempts to get this race off list year were unbackersand because of the bind state of the tee. Now, however, the prospects are remarkably good for the infrastructure as backer fermany it, isoff, and are the same as laose of the New York Yach, club. Anything may be carried as backer, provided the mine is orought boak. All have drawn or position, with the tollowing resulting. On the west shere the towering hills are re-

dissortin. Potsween the third and fourth aces the gurtaph was lifted, revealing a basic of the composed for the composed for the proposed and period of the composed for the proposed for the proposed for the pots of the pots of the proposed for the pots of the proposed for the pots of t